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in some cases the local governments could be induced to set them aside as reservations if the reasons for it were made clear.

Such islands as those here referred to, do not however have a sufficient proportion of inhabitants with scientific interests and with the means or enterprise to take any effective steps toward preserving their native plants or animals, nor do they appreciate their unique character, or fully realize that the things they see about them all the time are found nowhere else in the world. The initiative, encouragement, and no doubt some money (it would in many cases not take a great deal) must come from outside. This is not a matter of local interest only, it concerns nature students, zoologists, botanists and foresters throughout the world, particularly those interested in these sciences from an ecological point of view.

There never has been a time when international jealousies and mistrust and obstinate conservatism have so nearly disappeared from among the nations holding colonial possessions as they have to-day. The international co-operation of scientific societies and of the local and general governments necessary to carry on such work is not nearly so far outside the range of probability now as it would have seemed a few years ago. It seems a favorable time for some of our larger and more influential scientific associations and institutions to make a beginning by the appointment of a committee to communicate with others that might be interested, and discover what support and encouragement such a movement could hope for. The need is urgent, every year's delay will increase the difficulty and greatly diminish the results that it will be possible to achieve.

WILLARD G. VAN NAME

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

AN article in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* reports that for the past ten years a small group of men, interested in some aspects of anthropology, have held meetings (informal at first, before 1914) for the interchange of ideas and

the stimulation of interest. The nucleus of this group was certain members of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania and of the staff of the university museum, whose work lay in this field. The remainder were students and "laymen" who had some interest in anthropological studies, and who served to leaven the whole and widen the usefulness of associating together.

In the beginning no attempt was made to keep any definite object in view nor to expect anything more than that sociability would grow out of these gatherings. But when a man came home, after a bit of interesting field-work, one of the first things he did was to look up the next meeting of his friends and co-workers, to talk over his trip and perhaps to display photographs and specimens. In this way there arose evening meetings devoted to particular topics, with "speakers," meetings which were informal, but which tended toward a definite purpose. The café in which these friends usually met gradually became a sort of headquarters for the entertainment of anthropologists, visiting field-workers and members of societies from other cities.

In March, 1914, a serious attempt was made to increase the usefulness of these informal gatherings by adopting a regular date and place of meeting. The first step in this direction was to elect a president, a secretary-treasurer and an executive committee. Thus formed, and under the name of The Anthropological Society of Philadelphia, those interested began to hold regular meetings and to hear prepared papers and discussions once each month during the winter. The social character of the meetings was kept as much as possible and all formality was avoided, just sufficient, indeed, to preserve a natural cohesion of interest and companionship.

During the past three years funds have been appropriated by the provost through Dean Ames, of the university to pay the expenses of non-resident speakers to address the students of the department of anthropology; permission was obtained, through the efforts of Professor Frank G. Speach, of the department,

to combine the meetings of students and members of the society for mutual benefit. This arrangement has enabled the society to entertain some of the foremost anthropologists of the country, keeping the members in touch with the important work being done in other university centers, and making this body the center of things anthropological in Philadelphia.

At the first formal meeting of the society in 1914, Professor W. Max Müller, the Egyptologist, was elected president for the current four years. The president for the current year is Professor Walter Woodburn Hyde, of the department of Greek. Professor Speck, of the department of anthropology, has been an active member of the executive committee from the beginning, contributing largely to the success of the society.

Among the outside speakers who addressed the society in the past two seasons were:

Dr. Robert H. Lowie, curator of ethnology, American Museum of Natural History, New York. (Two papers.)

Dr. Alexander A. Goldenweiser, Columbia University. (Two papers.)

Professor Franz Boas, head of the department of anthropology, Columbia University.

Professor Alfred L. Kroeber, head of the department of anthropology, University of California.

Professor Spencer Trotter, department of biology, Swarthmore College.

Professor Phineas W. Whiting, department of biology, Franklin and Marshall College.

Honorable Gifford Pinchot, formerly chief forester of the U. S.

THE BRITISH NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY

THE custom which held before the war of inviting a number of visitors to the National Physical Laboratory in June has had to be suspended during the last four years, but it was revived on June 24 on the occasion of the annual inspection by the general board, the chairman of which, Sir J. J. Thomson, O.M., received the guests.

The London *Times* states that those who had not seen the laboratory since the war could scarcely recognize the place, so numerous are the extensions that have been made, and yet

the accommodation is even now inadequate for the work that has to be done. Perhaps the most conspicuous of the additions is a new aeronautics building which, among other things, is to house a huge wind channel, 14 feet across, for the testing of aircraft models.

Arrangements had been made by the director, Sir Richard Glazebrook, who is retiring in September, for conducting the visitors over the laboratory, and numerous demonstrations illustrating the work that is being carried on in the various departments had been arranged for their edification. Thus, in the metallurgy department the new rolling mill was shown in operation rolling high-tensile aluminium alloys down to very thin sheets suitable for covering the wings of aeroplanes in place of fabric. In the existing wind channels of the aeronautics department experiments were being conducted on the balancing of airship rudders, the mutual interference of airscrew and body and the flow of air in the neighborhood of the airscrew, the spinning of aeroplanes, and other points. The William Froude National Tank was being employed for the testing of seaplane floats, some of the experiments relating to the resistance, running angle and longitudinal stability of the float while planing on the water, and others to the impact of a seaplane when alighting on water. In the metrology department various munitions gauges, in the supply of which the laboratory did such good work during the war, were on view, and there was a minimeter capable of registering differences of one millionth of an inch. An electrical device for indicating at a distance the depth of petrol in the tanks of an aeroplane was to be seen, and in the department of electrotechnics there was the Paterson-Walsh electrical apparatus which was used as part of the London air defenses for ascertaining the height of hostile aircraft, while experiments with wireless telegraphy were conducted in a hut in the meadow. The engineering department and the optics division of the physics department were also open among other sections.

THE NEW BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

MR. J. L. COPE, who is organizing and will lead the British Imperial Antarctic Expedi-